

MEMO

To: City Council

Date: April 16, 2015

From: Tex Bradford

Re: Proposed Revision to the Existing Photovoltaic or Wind Ordinance

In 2003 a policy in ordinance form (Ordinance No. 10 Series 2003) was adopted by City Council allowing for the private owned generation of electricity by City electric customers as it pertains to photovoltaic (Solar) or wind generation. The ordinance was passed as a pilot program with specific limitations.

Over the past twelve years the city has had three customers install private owned solar generation with a total capacity of 11.3 kilowatts (kW).

In recent months the city has had two or three request to either increase the allowed kW from 10 kW to 15 kW or to allow for commercial customers to install solar units.

There is a state law that the city of Gunnison **is exempt from**. The law requires electric providers with 5,000 customers, (Not Meters) or more to be allowed to generate electricity with certain provisions. Two of the provisions are that residential customers are allowed to install approved systems up to 10 kW and commercial customers up to 25 kW. The power provider may allow larger systems if they so choose. The City of Gunnison has consistently supported renewable energy projects over the course of many years even though the City has not been required by state or federal law to do so.

As the original pilot program has been in place and monitored for approximately twelve years now along with the recent request to allow more solar generation staff recommends council consideration of the attached **draft** of the proposed revisions to the above referenced ordinance. Should council agree with suggested revisions staff will move forward with the necessary notices, public hearings, and etc., in order for council to adopt the revised ordinance if they so choose.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Tex Bradford